

IN THE CLAIMS:

Entry of the following amendments is respectfully requested in order to place the claims in condition for allowance:

1. (currently amended) An exhaust-gas cleaning system, comprising:
a nitrogen oxide reduction catalytic converter for reducing nitrogen oxides contained in an exhaust gas;

a reducing-agent metering device for metered addition of the reducing agent or a reducing-agent precursor to the exhaust gas,

wherein said reducing-agent metering device comprises:

a feed unit;

a vaporizer arranged upstream of the nitrogen oxide reduction catalytic converter; and

a heat source selected from the group consisting of a heatable deflector surface disposed in the exhaust gas onto which the reducing agent is directed under pressure at an angle substantially perpendicular to the deflector surface or ~~and~~ a microwave generator.

2. (original) An exhaust-gas cleaning system according to Claim 1, wherein the heatable deflector surface comprises a baffle plate that is oriented parallel to a direction of flow of the exhaust gas.

3. (original) An exhaust-gas cleaning system according to Claim 2, wherein a surface of the baffle plate is arranged against an inside surface of a pipe of the exhaust-gas cleaning system or is arranged in an interior of the pipe.

4. (currently amended) An exhaust-gas cleaning system according to Claim 2, wherein the exhaust gas flows through a main-flow exhaust system section, and the heatable baffle plate is arranged in a part-flow branch line of the exhaust-gas cleaning system that branches off from ~~a~~ the main-flow exhaust system section at a branching point and opens back into the main-flow exhaust system section downstream of the branching point.

5. (original) An exhaust-gas cleaning system according to Claim 1, further comprising two catalytic converter stages connected in series, wherein each catalytic converter stage has a different reducing-agent storage capacity and wherein at least one of the catalytic converter stages forms the nitrogen oxide reduction catalytic converter.

6. (original) A motor vehicle internal combustion engine comprising the exhaust-gas cleaning system according to Claim 1.

7. (withdrawn) A method for cleaning exhaust gas, comprising:
guiding an exhaust gas containing nitrogen oxides through a main flow channel;
injecting a reducing agent into the exhaust gas;

vaporizing the reducing agent;
mixing the vaporized reducing agent and the exhaust gas;
catalytically reducing the nitrogen oxides,
wherein said vaporizing comprises heating the reducing agent by
microwave radiation or by spraying the reducing agent onto a heated deflector
surface.

8. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said vaporizing
further comprises ~~hydrolysing~~ hydrolyzing urea to form gaseous ammonia and
carbon monoxide.

9. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said heated
deflector surface further comprises a catalytically active coating.